

October 26, 2009

RE: *Michael Fowlin: Empowering Students To Change Their Community*
Reserved Seating Deadline November 13th

Dear Parents,

Through the generous support of the Elementary Schools Parents' Associations, Winchester Coalition For A Safer Community (formerly the Substance Abuse Coalition), and Parent to Parent, we are pleased to welcome back nationally recognized clinical psychologist and actor, Dr. Michael Fowlin, to our schools on Monday, November 16th. Dr. Fowlin will present to the 5th Grade classes his thought-provoking show, "*Even Small Crayons Make Bright Marks*" at the McCall Middle School Auditorium, as well as an encore performance for all Winchester parents that evening at 7:00 pm at the High School Auditorium.

How does one prevent some of the ills that often overtake an individual during the teenage years and into their adult life? The answer is more simply said than done: Start by working with the younger ones. Michael Fowlin along with [Tania Alexandra](#) has created an exciting new program geared for elementary schools. The show is called "Even Small Crayons Make Bright Marks." In a one hour presentation, using music, monologues, improvisation, and audience participation, Michael and Tania entertain and challenge children to think about how they treat one another. Some of the topics explored include, but are not limited to: children who bully other children, individuals who have disabilities (i.e., physical, emotional, and/or intellectual), the pain of loss, children who live in non-traditional homes (e.g., foster/adopted children, single parent homes, same-sex parents), and the recognition that everyone can make a positive impact on their school and community. The show targets grades 3-6 with a clear message: No matter who you are, no matter what disabilities or hurdles you face, no matter how little or big you are you can make bright marks on this world. More information about this presentation may be found at Dr. Fowlin's website, www.michaelfowlin.com.

Prior to the performances, teachers and counselors will be trained to deal with the emotional impact of the performance as well as how to convert that emotion into action. After the performances, all students will meet with teachers in small discussion groups to address the issues raised by Dr. Fowlin and identify ways to improve and strengthen their school community. In this way, the school hopes to empower its students to make positive change in the way they treat each other. Once the students have identified changes they can make, the school will help them to make those changes. There will be follow-up sessions in the weeks after the presentation, with resolutions made on how each student can contribute to bettering their community.

We realize that this is the beginning of a very busy season, but the McCall Middle School is committed to empowering its student body to make change for the better in their school community. The goal is to become a community that accepts the differences amongst its members and promotes an atmosphere of inclusion, not mere tolerance, of all. To better enable this program to succeed, we urge all parents to attend the evening performance to gain an insight into the program and to be able to engage your child in continued discussions at home about these topics. There will also be discussion leaders on hand should parents wish to engage in small group discussions that evening. Coffee and refreshments will be served. **Seating in the auditorium is limited; reserved seating is available for the parent session on Monday November 16th until November 13th by emailing Enrichment Coordinator Anne Marie Hill at hill.davis@comcast.net, with the subject line "Michael Fowlin."**

We hope that you can join us for this very special evening.

Sincerely,
Kate Scanlon